AMID SHRAPNEL FIRE WRITER SEES FIERCE CONFLICT ON THE YSER RIVER

By EDGAR ANSEL MOWRER.

ondent Chicago Daily News.) West Flanders, Belgium.-For more than a week I have been at the headquarters of the Belgian army behind the line of the River Yser from Nieuport to Dixmude. I have seen how the remnants of the army from Antwerp retreating on the way to Ostend were sent to northern France to rest and reorganize and how the rest of the Belgian forces, being asked to hold the lines 42 hours, have actually held it for six days, thus preventing a siege of Dunkirk and saving the French coast from invasion.

Stick to Antwerp to Last.

Contrary to what was at first reported, the Belgian army left Antwerp only after all the forts except four had been destroyed, and these four the defenders blew up as they hastily evacuated the town, the heroic Belgian, General de Guisel remaining to the last. What part of the retreating Belgians entered Holland and are held by Dutch authorities is not known here.

It is certain that the others never would have escaped the Germans but for the heroic stand made by a mixed force of English, Belgians and French marines in the village of Nelle, southwest of Ghent, wherein two Belgian regiments-the Sixth volunteers and the Ninth of the line-particularly distinguished themselves.

Walks From Dunkirk to France. I reached Furnes October 16, having walked from Dunkirk, I crossed a bridge, reached a village street and after two turnings emerged on the quaint old market place of Furnes, the home and present seat of the general headquarters of the Belgian army. I went at once to the headquarters in the town hall, made known my identity and secured a pass.

Standing before the headquarters was an automobile containing three British soldiers. I approached and asked the nearest one where the Germans were. He looked at me with astonishment and before replying or letting me explain who I was and why I had come, he exclaimed: "Good

Lord! Have they let you come this Well, since you are here, it can do no harm to tell you where they are." He drew a map from his pocket. "Here they are." he said, laying a finger on the village of Middlekirke. "Our line extends from Nieuport to Dixmude. The Belgians are intrenching themselves all along the line."

Starts Out for Nieuport.

I thanked the soldiers and set out to walk to Nieuport. On the outskirts of Furnes I passed a regiment of Belgians starting for Dixmude. I turned to the left in the direction of Nieuport, but at the village of Wulpun I was turned back by an overpolite Belgian sergeant.

. That night I heard a terrible cannonading, and Saturday morning, October 17, I learned that the battle of Yser had begun. This battle, self is only a part of the greater battle of which it is likely to be the center. Small though it is in the number of troops engaged, the battle of the Yeer presents three distinct phases, according to the nature of the ground.

About eight miles east of Furnes lies the town of Dixmude, where the attack began The Helgians here had been re-enforced by 5,000 French marine infantry, these marines forming the first line of defense, 400 yards beyond the town and on the right bank of the Yser. The Germans attacked with great violence about nine o'clock Friday evening. Marines who figured in the battle estimate their opponents' strength at 20,000. The attack continued until daybreak on Saturday, when the marines, ably assisted by French and Belgian batteries placed behind the town, drove back the onslaught with considerable loss.

Reaches the Belgian Trenches. When I reached the Belgian batteries and trenches about eleven a. m. Saturday the former were keeping up a steady fire. Some of the Belgians lying in the trenches which had been the second line of defense tried to deter me from continuing farther, as the shrapnel fire was rather heavy at this point, but I proceeded until I reached about one kilometer (sixtenth of a mile) on this side of the town. A Belgian lieutenant previously had given me permission to go one kilometer beyond the town to a position which, as I learned later, would have put me exactly between the opposing forces and in full line with the rifle fire.

Escapes Shrapnel of Germans. I turned aside and approached a church in the midst of a small village. All the morning the booming of the far away German cannon had been audible, but it seemed without importance. Now I had my first experience of being under fire. As I was about to enter the church, intending to mount into the belfry, I heard an unnerving whir, of a somewhat lower pitch than that produced by projectiles from the Belgian guns. It grew louder, louder and louder. I felt as if a devil's flying machine was looking about hunting for me, and for a brief second I wished that I had never come. Then, with a loud report, the German shrapnel burst harmlessly beyond the church and 100 feet up in the air. Since that day I have heard and seen perhaps 20 shells burst nearly over me, but never without the same awful sensation, which, I believe, is not | in their minds.

fear of death, but the result of the unearthly sound.

Entering the church, I found it full of straw, the place evidently having been used as a dormitory for soldiers, but nothing had been touched, though chairs were scattered everywhere. After mounting a rickety ladder a long time in the dark I reached the very tip of the steeple above the bell.

Sees Battle From Steeple. Looking through my spyglasses over the flat country in the direction of the town, I was able to distinguish the very spots and buildings beyond which the Belgian shells were bursting. Flames were leaping high, but owing to a row of trees screening the German batteries I was unable to see what was burning. At that time the town itself was intact.

To the left stretched the poplar bordered Yser. I could see men sheltered in trenches along the roadsidetrenches so cut as to provide a skeleton covering, upon which was heaped straw making a watertight roof. In front, about six hundred yards distant, a regiment was drawn up, but I was unable to learn the reason why.

In company with an English correspondent, at that time the only other correspondent with the Belgians, I saw the battle of Nicuport at close range. Long before we reached the village of Nieuport Baines we saw part of the naval squadron lying just off the coast occasionally firing at some unseen mark and heard field artillery boom ing ahead.

Hear Batteries in the Dunes. We heard the Belgian batteries firing in the dunes on our right toward Nieuport and only when we reached the south pier at the mouth of the Yser could we obtain any idea of the general situation, the lines at this point being held by the Sixth and Seventh Belgian infantry. The day was cloudy and the wind was driving the mist of rain inland. Accordingly, we sought a high, deserted building that stood nearest the river. When we finally stuck our heads through the skylight, by the aid of our glasses we saw an unforgettable sight.

At our feet lay the railroad station at the mouth of the River Yser, which stretched away right to the town of Nieuport, then bent southward and was hidden from view by the building in which we were. Behind the river, hidden in a grove of scrubby trees growing on the dunes, were three Belgian batteries of four guns each, which were firing incessantly straight across before us. The shells were striking beyond the village of Lombaertzyde,

Thirteen Warships In Sight. To the left, beyond Lombaertzyde, was the village of Westende, which the Germans had retaken that morning. Still farther away the church spire of Middlekerque was faintly visible. Lombaertzyde seemed quiet, but German shells bursting over it presently located the Belgian trenches bewhich has not yet come to an end, it- fore us and a few soldiers came running over the dunes.

But it was on the left that the spec tacle was most impressive. There, lying out from the coast at varying distances, were 13 vessels of war. There were two cruisers, one of which fired occasionally from about three miles; the other lay silent somewhat farther from the coast and south of eight destroyers, four French and four English and three monitors.

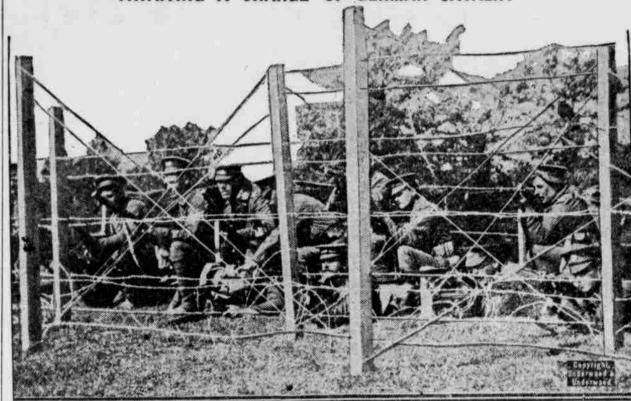
Great Flashes Bare Batteries. For a long time we watched the German shells bursting over Lombaertzyde. The Belgian shrapnel and the shells of the monitors were directed against Westende. I saw the Belgian batteries lying on our side of the Yser, but, though their thunder made our building tremble, we were able to locate the batteries only by the terrific flashes amid the trees through an occasional rift in the smoke. So well since the only shells which fell in our lighthouse, which the Germans probably imagined to be a wireless station, Each time a message was sent more house. Many fell into the river.

Tells English Officer's Bravery. We were joined in our skylight by a Belgian captain who asked us for the loan of our glasses and when he had seen all that he desired he told us the story of the English lieutenant who had landed that morning, the particulars of which he had just learned. This officer came ashore from the monitor Severn with 20 men and three machine guns to prevent the Belgian retreat.

Reaching Nieuport, he saw that in losing Groote Bamberghe farm that morning the Belgians had weakened their position. Accordingly, he started with his 20 men across the bulletswept area right to the Belgian trenches. The men who were there say he walked as calmly as if on a tour of inspection, calling orders to his men and signaling with his hands. in vain the Belgian officers shouted that the position was already occupied by the Germans. Either he did not hear or he was determined to accom-

plish the task at all costs. Destiny broods and is silent over matters of this kind. When 50 yards from the coveted goal the young officer fell dead, a bullet having struck him between the eyes. The men retreated, still carrying the guns with them and with the memory of a hero

AWAITING A CHARGE OF GERMAN CAVALRY



infantry behind barbed wire calmly awaiting a charge by a detachment of the kaiser's cavalry.

WITH GERMANY

Bombardment of Russian Port Tantamount to a Declaration of War.

MOVE HAS BEEN EXPECTED

is Tenth Nation to Be involved in the Struggle-Has Large Army, Officered by Germans, Ready to Take the Field-Belgians Flood Country and Compel Germans to Retire-Emden Sinks a Russian and a French Warship.

Theodosia, Crimea, via Petrograd, Oct. 31.—The German cruiser Breslau, which now flies the Turkish flag, bombarded this city Friday.

While there is no information here that Turkey has broken with Russia. this action is equivalent to a declaration of war. Relations Are Strained.

London, Oct. 31.-A Reuter dispatch from Constantinople says that the situation between Great Britain and Turkey is becoming daily more strained and appears to be nearing the break-

ing point. "It is believed," the dispatch adds, "that should the allies experience a setback in the European theater of the war, especially in Poland, it will be impossible to restrain the Turks as the war party is becoming more and more powerful."

Tenth Nation at War. Turkey is the tenth nation to be in-

volved in the titanic struggle, if these reports from Theodosia are true. Its attacks are directed particularly against Russia. It has been expected for weeks that, yielding to German pressure and

promises, Turkey would break its neutrality and do some belligerent act. Six hundred German officers have arrived in Turkey since the war began. They brought siege guns, field guns and ammunition with them. It is computed that Turkey has from 600,000 to 700,000 men ready to

take the field. The German officers put the number at 900,000. Turkey Continues Active.

London, Nov. 1 .- Turkey has followed its initial hostile acts in bombarding two Russian cities by attackwere they concealed that the Germans ing Russian and French ships without must have been unable to locate them, loss of time. Following is a summary of events which have succeeded each direction seemed to be aimed at the other rapidly as a result of the decision of the porte to enter the war: Turkish gunboats raided the port of shells came whirling toward the light- town, sank the Russian gunboat Don- retreat. ets, killed all her crew, and damaged and Whampoa and the French liner Portugal.

Britain Warns Turkey. Cruiser Goeben torpedoed and sank the Russian steamers Yalta and Kazbek in the Black sea, drowning 73 passengers and crew. The Russian ambassador at Constantinople has been withdrawn. The British envoy, Ambassador Mallet, has informed the grand vizier on behalf of his government that if the Turks cross the fronthe powers. Russian troops have been mobilized on the Turkish frontier. Turkey is mobilizing cavalry divisions on the Red sea.

The menace of Turkey's action lies in the possibility of a "holy war" by Mohammedans against Christians. She undoubtedly will attempt to incite to revolt the great mass of Mohammedan subjects of Great Britain in Asia and Africa.

Italy to Enter War.

Italy's hand is expected soon to be forced. France has looked to Italy to dominate the Balkans, and in the present crisis with Turkey's army, numbering between 700,000 and 900,-000, thrown into the conflict, she cannet do so by continuing her neutral position.

Roumania probably will do likewise.

DYKES OPENED BY BELGIANS

Flood Compels Germans to Retreat-Report That Lille and Ostend Are Evacuated.

On the Battle Front, via Paris, Nov. .- The German forces in the lower Yser valley in Belgium have been compelled to retreat, according to an official announcement issued here. The Belgians opened the dykes in the valto withdraw from the flood of water that poured forth against them. As the Germans retreated they were shelled by the Belgians.

Lille is reported to have been recaptured by the allies. Ostend also is said to have been evacuated by the Ger-

The British troops, hard pressed by the fury of the German attacks leveled against their positions along both sides of the Canal of La Bassee, came off victors in one of the hardest fought battles of the campaign in France.

Thousands of dead and wounded were left on the field when the Germans finally were driven back, and the trenches of the troops commanded by Field Marshal Sir John French held both German and French dead, for they had been taken and retaken repeatedly during the two days' encounter.

EMDEN IN GLORIOUS FEAT

German Cruiser Sinks Russian and French Warship in Harbor of British Possession.

London, Oct. 30 .- The German cruiser Emden, the terror of the Pacific n has made snoth raid, according to advices received from the British embassy at Tokyo.

Flying the Japanese flag and disguised by the addition of a fourth smokestack, she audaciously stole under the guns of the fort and entered Georgetown, the harbor of the island of Penang, the British possession in the Straits Settlements, fired torpedoes which destroyed the Russian cruiser Jemptchug and a French torpedo destroyer and escaped through the Straits of Malacca. More than two hundred members of the crews of the warships were killed. This brings the total number of vessels destroyed by the Emden and the Karlsruhe up

Russians Claim Victory Everywhere in Poland-Berlin Denies Reports of Reverses.

Petrograd, Oct. 30 .- All the German army corps on the left bank of Odessa, bombarded the suburbs of the the Vistula river in Poland are in full

The following official communicathe Russian steamers Lazareff, Witiaz tion issued by the Russian command-

We have broken the resistance of him.

war at once. She will, of course, op- the enemy's last units which still atpose her ancient enemy, the Turks. tempted to hold the north of the Pilitza river. On the front beyond the Vistula all the Austro-German troops are now in retreat. We have occu-

> "Russian cavalry has entered Radom and captured several thousand prisoners, guns, scores of machine guns, supply trains and automobiles." Berlin Claims Some Progress.

pied Strykow, Ieschow and Nowemi-

Berlin, Oct. 30 .- An official report issued by the German general army headquarters says:

"In the northeastern theater of the war our attacks are progressing. Durley and the Germans were compelled ing the last three weeks 13,500 Russians, 30 cannon, and 39 machine guns have been taken.

"In the southeastern war area the situation is unchanged."

De Wet Joins Boer Revolt.

London, Oct. 29.—The colonial office issued officially a dispatch from the government of the commonwealth of South Africa stating that the famous Boer general, Christian De Wet, who gave the British so much trouble in the South African war, is leading the revolt in the Orange Free State. Another well-known Boer general, Beyers, heads a similar revolt in western Transvaal.

100 Boers Surrender. Washington, Oct. 31.-The surrender of 100 rebellious Boers without fighting at Brandvlei and Understedoorsn, South Africa, was reported today in

official London dispatches to the British embassy. London, Oct. 31 .- Col. Conrad Brins, who has been suppressing the rebellion started by Colonel Lieutenant Maritz in Northwest Cape province,

reports the invasion of the Cape has

Would Make Peace With France.

been broken.

London, Oct. 30.—The Daily Chron icle's Paris correspondent asserts that, with a view to detaching France from the allies, Germany made an offer to conclude peace on the basis of the cession of Metz and possibly a portion of Alsace to France. The offer, according to the correspondent, was re-

Hospital Ship Is Wrecked. Whitby, England, Nov. 1 .- The British hospital ship Rohilla, bound from England to France, to bring home wounded, was wrecked near Whitby during a terrific storm. All her boats but one were smashed and that was swamped near shore. Several bodies have been recovered. It is feared that 100 are drowned. Life savers suc-PRESS ON AT ALL POINTS ceeded in getting off two boatloads of survivors. The others, including the crew, have taken to the rigging. The vessel carried thirty doctors and a full hospital equipment.

New British Sea Lord Is Appointed. London, Nov. 1.-It was officially announced that Baron John Arbuth not Fisher, admiral of the fleet, has been appointed first sea lord of the admiralty to succeed Prince Louis of er-in-chief under date of October 28, Battenberg, who resigned because of newspaper criticism directed against

MORE THAN HALF THE WORLD'S PEOPLE NOW ENGAGED IN WAR

With the entrance of Turkey into the war considerably more than half of the world, from the viewpoints both of area and of population, is now astier of Egypt it will mean war with tually involved in the hostilities resulting from the Austrian demands upon Servia. Here are the figures, compiled from Whitaker's Almanac: THE ALLIES. Area (square miles). Population.

British empire13,123,712	435,000,000
France (including colonies) 4,291,510	94,730,000
Russian empire 8,400,000	164,000,000
Belgium (including the Congo) 813,400	22,500,000
Japanese empire 235,900	65,100,000
Servia	5,000,000
Montenegro 5,800	500,000
Total, ailles	786,830,000
Germany (including colonies) 1,343,020	80,000,000
Austro-Hungarian empire 261,033	51,340,000
Turklah empire	31,580,000
Total, pro-German	162,920,000
Total of countries at war	949,750,000
Total land area of the	4 444 444 444

To Increase Supply of Salmon. Important experiments have recent

ly been made by the fisheries expert for British Columbia in connection with the hatchery operations. Last year at Seaton lake, instead of placing all the sockeye salmon eggs in trays, as has been the custom heretofore, a plan was adopted more in keeping with the natural methods followed by the fish. The eggs, after having been inoculated with the lymph, were buried under five to seven inches of sand and gravel. Over 200,000 ova were thus treated in tanks especially made therefor, and as a result 188,000 healthy fry have been taken out with the possibility of more to follow. This is a splendid record, as compared with the old pan system, and it is believed by the experts that the new method will revolutionize the business of the hatcheries.

ITCHING BURNING ECZEMA

R. F. D. No. 3, Caldwell, Ohio .-"When our baby was about two months old she broke out over her body, face and head with eczema. It was bad, about as thick as it could be. It broke out in a kind of pimples. They were red and sore. She was very cross and restless. The eczema would itch and burn till she couldn't sleep. It looked very badly and would peel off where the places were. Her clothes would irritate the eruption.

"We gave her medicine, but it didn't do any good. We had heard about Cuticura Soap and Ointment so we sent for a sample and it was not very long till she was better. I bought some more Cuticura Soan and Ointment which cured her completely." (Signed) H. E. Smith, Mar. 21, 1914. Cuticura Soap and Ointment sold throughout the world. Sample of each free, with 32-p. Skin Book. Address postcard "Cuticura, Dept. L. Boston."-Adv.

Stork's Good Memory.

While visiting the Berlin zoological gardens, says Lustige Blatter, little Gretchen saw a great white bird standing on one leg in a cage. She threw in a piece of candy; the bird gobbled it up eagerly; and thrust its head through the wire for more.

Presently Gretchen's mother came along. "O mother, see here! What kind of a bird is this?"

The mother pointed to the sign on the cage, which read, "The Stork."
"The stork!" cried the little girl enthusiastically. O mamma, do you know, he actually recognized me?"

A GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

Mr. F. C. Case of Welcome Lake, Pa., writes: "I suffered with Backache and Kidney Trouble. My head ached, my sleep was broken and unrefreshing. I felt

heavy and sleepy after meals, was always nervous and tired, had a bitter taste in my mouth, was dizzy, had floating specks before my eyes, was always Mr. F. C. Case.

thirsty, had a dragging sensation across my loins, difficulty in collecting my thoughts and was troubled with shortness of breath. Dodds Kidney Pills have cured me of these complaints. Dodds Kidney Pills have done their work and done it well. You are at liberty to publish this letter for the benefit of any sufferer who doubts the merit of Dodds Kidney Pills."

Dodds Kidney Pills, 50c. per box at your dealer or Dodds Medicine Co., Buffalo, N. Y. Write for Household Hints, Dainty Recipes; also music of National Anthem. All 3 sent free. Adv.

Greek Meets Greek.

The two oldest inhabitants were very ignorant, neither of them being able even to tell the time of day. A friend of Uncle Ben's gave him t watch, of which he was very proud One day, before the crowd at the cor ner store, old Pete, being slightly jealous of such wealth and wishing to embarrass his rival, said: "Say, Ben, what time have you got?"

The other old fellow drew out his watch and turned its face toward his inquisitor. "There she be!" he exclaimed. Pete was almost at a loss, but he

made a magnificent effort and retort ed: "Blame if she ain't!"-Every body's Magazine.

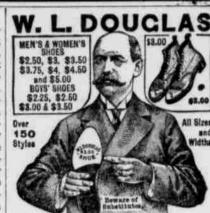
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Hard on Some People.

"Americans must learn to use homegrown tobacco," a trade journal declares. This will go hard with those persons who haven't been in the habit of using any kind of tobacco at all .-Youngstown (O.) Telegram.

An effort is being made in Germany to unify the 40 systems of stenography now used in that country.

Dyspepsia and pessimism have a lot



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our husband? Mrs. Wyse-Yes, I sometimes ask his advice about things .- Boston Tran-

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